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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [KPAL](#) [JO](#)
SUBJECT: JORDAN PRESSED ON ISRAELI SPEAKING ROLE AT UNRWA
AT 60 EVENT

REF: A. STATE 94885
[1](#)B. AMMAN 1979

Classified By: Ambassador R. Stephen Beecroft
for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) The Ambassador engaged Royal Court Chief Nasser Lozi and FM Nasser Judeh multiple times in the past week to seek Jordanian support for a speaking role for Israel at the upcoming UNRWA at 60 event (Ref A). While both were wary of regional and domestic criticism, they acknowledged the need for Jordanian representatives in New York to take a balanced position. FM Judeh recently phoned his Egyptian counterpart in an attempt to soften Egypt's stance on the matter, but was rebuffed. Judeh has since instructed Jordan's Permanent Representative in New York to take some initiative in the next meeting of the organizing committee. The Jordanian PermRep has been told to say that as the country that hosts the largest number of Palestinian refugees, Jordan has the largest stake in UNRWA's work. As such, Jordan needs the organization to be strong. In that context, Jordan's opinion will be that the event should be about what is best for UNRWA, even if that means allowing Israel to speak. Judeh told the Ambassador that he is optimistic about the ability of the parties to reach a resolution on the issue in advance of the event. The Embassy will continue to engage its interlocutors on this subject.
Beecroft